

Colilert Collection/Shipping Guidelines



Sample: potable water collected in a sterile container; for chlorinated water use a container with sodium thiosulfate neutralizer.

- ▲ *Colilerts are processed Monday – Thursday (8 am - 3 pm) and only until noon on Fridays.*
- ▲ *Colilerts cannot be processed Saturday or the day prior to a holiday.*

Method: qualitative colorimetric detection of *E. coli* and coliforms; this method can detect a single viable coliform or *E. coli* in the presence of up to 2 million CFU/mL of heterotrophic bacteria.

Collection:

Sterile screw-top containers for water collection are available from U.S. Micro-Solutions, call 724-853-4047.

Potable Water - Distribution System without attachments:

1. Select a tap that is supplying water from a service pipe directly connected with the main, and is not, for example, served from a cistern or storage tank.
2. Open tap fully and let water run for 2 minutes or for a time sufficient to permit clearing of the service line.
3. Reduce water flow to permit filling the sample container without splashing. Collect 100 mL of water.
4. Label the sample container with the sample number.

Potable Water - Well fitted with a hand pump:

1. Pump water for about 5-10 minutes or until water temperature has stabilized then fill the sample container without splashing. Collect 100 mL of water.
2. If no pumping machinery is available, collect a sample directly from the well by means of a sterilized bottle fitted with a weight at the base. Take care to avoid contaminating samples. Collect 100 ml of water.
3. Label the sample container with the sample number.

Shipping:

1. Clearly label each sample with a Sample Number and complete the Chain of Custody(COC).
2. Place samples in a Ziploc bag in a box with sufficient packing material to prevent damage along with the completed COC form.
3. Ship samples Priority Overnight at ambient temperature Monday through Thursday for receipt within 24 hours of collection.

Sample Non-conformances:

- >30 hours from collection to analysis time
- <100 mL sample